

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2422

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, PINS, GR

SUBJECT: VANDALISM AT AMERICAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SITE

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED FOR INFORMATION DEPARTMENT AND  
ATHENS AS RESULT BROAD MEDIA TREATMENT OF SUBJECT  
HERE.

1. FOR PAST TWO DAYS, LOCAL AND ATHENS PAPERS HAVE  
CARRIED EXTENSIVE, AND IN SOME INSTANCES ERRONEOUS, REPORTS  
ON THEFT OF EQUIPMENT AT OIL PROSPECTING SITE OF  
HOUSTON-BASED ROGERS ADVANCED PROSPECTING COMPANY IN  
NESTOS RIVER DELTA AREA NEAR CHRYSSOUPOLIS.

2. PRESS AUGUST 21 REPORTED THEFT OF DYNAMITE AND  
CABLES IN TEST AREA WHICH WOULD SET BACK ROGERS  
DRILLING PROGRAM BY AS MUCH AS TWO WEEKS AND COST GOG,  
WHICH HAS ROGERS UNDER CONTRACT, UP TO THREE MILLION  
DRACHMAS FOR WORK DELAY AND MATERIEL LOSSES. PRESS  
AUGUST 22 NOTES THAT LOCAL POLICE, ACTIVELY INVESTIGATING  
INCIDENT, HAVE INTERVIEWED "MORE THAN 50 CHRISTIAN  
AND MOSLEM" RESIDENTS OF AREA AND ARRESTED THREE GYPSIES.  
THESE REPORTS FURTHER STATE THAT NOT OVER 20,000 DRACHMAS  
WORTH OF MATERIAL WAS INVOLVED AND THAT TOTAL LOSSES,  
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INCLUDING WORK DELAYS, WILL AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY

400,000 DRACHMAS AT MOST. ONE ACCOUNT SPECULATES THAT DIFFICULTY PROBABLY CENTERED ABOUT FARMERS OF AREA WHO FEEL THEIR INTERESTS ENDANGERED BY "EXPROPRIATION" OF FIELDS NECESSARY FOR EXPLORATORY WORK. ALL PAPERS REPORT EXPECTED STATEMENT OF MIN. OF INDUSTRY RONOFAGOS ON SUBJECT LATER TODAY FROM KAVALA.

3. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN TODAY, ROGERS OFFICIAL STATED THAT PRESS HAD OVERPLAYED INCIDENT AND REPORTED SUCH THIEVERY WAS COMMON EXPERIENCE FOR THEM IN THEIR WORK BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD. HE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT ONLY BRIGHT-COLORED DETONATOR WIRES WERE TAKEN AND NOT REPEAT NOT DYNAMITE AS FIRST REPORTED. HE TERMED INCIDENT "PETTY VANDALISM" AND CERTAINLY NOT SABOTAGE, ATTRIBUTING IT TO FARMERS OF AREA OR CHILDREN. IN THIS CONNECTION ONFICIAL CONCEDED THAT SOME FARMERS IN REGION (WHERE DISCOVERY OF OIL OFFSHORE KAVALA HAS GENERATED DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION THREAT) WERE APPREHENSIVE OVER POSSIBILITY OF DAMAGE TO IRRIGATION CONDUITS BY ONGOING WORK, AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OIL STRIKES ON THEIR LAND. "A FEW DAILY PROBLEMS" HAVE RESULTED AND COMPANY REPS HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE FARMERS, HE SAID. HE ESTIMATED THERE WOULD BE ONLY ABOUT TWO DAYS LOSS OF WORK AS RESULT OF INCIDENT.

4. AS MATTER OF INTEREST, SAME OFFICIAL WAS RESTRAINED IN ESTIMATING PROSPECTS FOR DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE PETROLEUM IN THIS AREA, SAYING IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO COMMENT NOW. DEFINITIVE ASSESSMENT WILL HAVE TO AWAIT PROCESSING OF INFORMATION AT ROGERS' COMPUTER CENTER IN HOUSTON,; WHICH LAGS SOME TWO TO THREE WEEKS BEHIND ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION HERE, OFFICIAL SAID. HE ALSO STATED THAT ROGERS' ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA MIGHT BE EXTENDED BEYOND PRESENT CONTRACT TERM UNTIL END OF YEAR. END COMMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** EMIN, PINS, GR  
**To:** STATE  
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